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LETTERS OF JOHN DANDRIDGE TO JOHN HOPKINS.

John Dandridge was nephew of Mrs. Washington, and son of her brother, Judge Bartholomew Dandridge. By his marriage with Elizabeth Macon, eldest child of Colonel James Macon and Elizabeth Moore, daughter of Colonel Augustine Moore, Judge Dandridge had a daughter—1, Anne, who married William Dandridge Claiborne. Then by his marriage with Mary Burbidge, daughter of Julius King Burbidge and Lucy, his wife, of New Kent county, he had issue: 2, John Dandridge, born 176—, and died near Brandon, March, 1799; 3, Bartholomew Dandridge, private secretary of Washington; died in San Domingo, 1802. His will, written in French, was recorded at Alexandria, Virginia. 4, William Dandridge, who married Susanna Armistead; 5, Julius Burbidge Dandridge, who died unmarried; 6, Mary Dandridge, who married John Willison; 7, Frances Dandridge, who married George William Hunt Minge, son of David Minge, of Weyanoke—*Quarterly*, V., 36; VI., 235; XII., 126-128; XIV., 265-267; XV., 280-282.

John Dandridge practiced law, and lived first in New Kent at a place called *Pamocra*. He married Rebecca Jones Minge, daughter of David Minge, of Weyanoke, Charles City county, and had issue: 1, Lucy, married James Walke Murdaugh, of Williamsburg; and 2, John, named in the will of George William Hunt Minge, proved in 1808, in Charles City county. About the year 1797 John Dandridge moved to Prince George county, and lived near Brandon. In a churchyard not far from Brandon house, there is a tombstone which records his death in 1799, aged 31. (But probably 37, as letters show that he was a practicing lawyer in 1787.) John Hopkins, to whom the letters were addressed, was a prosperous merchant of Richmond and United States Commissioner of Loans. He married Lucy Lyons, daughter of Judge Peter Lyons, who was Mr. Maury's lawyer in the famous Parson's Cause in Hanover in 1763.

New Kent Sept^r 18th 1787.

I am now about to address my Friend John Hopkins, who perhaps is *now* expecting a Letter from me, at the city of New York. In all cases when we make addresses of any kind to a

person, we ought to be acquainted with the situation of Body & mind of the person we address at the time of receiving them, if we wish & expect to please or entertain: Now as it is impossible for me to know or guess at your situation & disposition, when this letter shall reach you, I here desire you will read no farther than the end of this sentence, unless you are in a good humour free from the chagrin of late disappointment, unsoured by excess in any late debauch, and perfectly at leisure to attend to a communication from Virginia, whether it be of importance or not. But if you are in the situation & disposition I have described, & in New York; read on, whilst I candidly tell you, that I can with difficulty congratulate you, for envy. For of all situations, I desire *that* most, where free from care foreign & domestick, one may be alone or in company, may find amusement suited to every genius & humour, & indulge in every gratification mental & sensual, at will. Since you left us, I have been here for the most part plodding on in the common course of my profession, sometimes engaged in the troubles of Law, & sometimes in the troubles of a plantation, both disagreeable indeed. Once I have made a digression to a Barbecue, which happened on the banks of Pamunkey. On my arrival in the field, (the place of entertainment) rather early in the day, I found our friend Bassett¹ stretched under an apple tree, quite vanquished, & so oppressed with the leaden shaft of Cupid, that it was with difficulty I could encourage him enough to approach the feet of his mistress. However, he at last with my assistance ventured to attend her, & in the course of the day, I fear, suffered greatly from her *indifference*; which you lovers generally term *cruelty*. I expected to have had the supreme felicity of entertaining the elegant, the charming, &c. &c. &c. Miss L. L.² & to have fulfilled my promise of pleading in your behalf, if passion had not overcome my honesty & philosophy; but alas! fate had forbade it. The ague, that

¹ Burwell Bassett, of *Eltham*, in New Kent county, first cousin of John Dandridge; afterwards member of Congress for many years.

² Lucy Lyons, daughter of Judge Peter Lyons, of *Studley*, Hanover county.

cruel enemy & destroyer of youthful vigour & Female beauty, had seized upon her, & enviously denied us so great happiness.

I have refrained from writing to you since, that I might not leave you in the tormenting information of her being sick, without being able to revive you by telling you to drink a *Bumper* of the best Burgundy to her recovered health; which I now do. I passed the two succeeding days after the Barbecue with M^{rs} Y—gh—ba—d, who says you are the most diffident & cowardly Lover in the world; that you absolutely wait for the Lady to make the first advances & to meet you more than half way; which she further says is totally unreasonable, & leaves you deservedly unpossessed of a fine woman, & will leave you so forever. If these are the only obstacles, my Friend, I should think you might find company in New York that could qualify you for removing them, & capacitate you for a successful attack on your return.

I received your letter of Augst 20th inclosing Edw^d: Lacy's acc^t & applied to him for the balance. He acknowledged it properly stated, but said he had a demand against M^{rs} Meux, or the Estate of her husband dec^d, which you had assumed the payment of, & which he intended as a discount against this claim: yet that he was willing to furnish me with Bonds to the amount. I have therefore determined to get the Bonds of him (which I have in part) & when you return in October or before, if you direct me, will bring suit against him also, as I don't receive the Bonds of him as a discharge for so much of your claim. There is no delay in this, because if I had issued the writ when I received your letter, it would not have been returned before November.

I expect to be in Richmond about the 15th & 20th of October, & by that time I suppose you will return. I sincerely wish it, for I assure you I lose half my company there, when you are away.

I know, not a soul, where you are, and have therefore no Comp^{ts} to trouble you with, but to yourself, which receive in the sincerity of a Friend, & believe me &c. (To John Hopkins, New York.)

New Kent, Decemb^r 16, 1787.

From the time I left you, my good friend, till this, I have never been able to collect one mess of Ducks, and I believe there

never was an instance of their coming so late in the season as the fall past. However I hope you have not been so sated with them from elsewhere, as to have lost all relish for them.

I have some thought of coming to Richmond before Thursday; but in case I should not, I now inform you, there is to be a ball at Hanover-town *on Thursday evening next*, when you are requested to attend, by the Doc^r & attorney of Studley & whom I left yesterday, with your old friend B. S.³ dancing around Miss Carter. I give you this information thus timely that you may not lose the opportunity of perfect happiness in enjoying the honor of being waiting-man to Miss L. L.

I must come up before the Assembly rises, when I shall have the pleasure of seeing you again, and I wish you would get M^{rs} Hopkins home, that my pleasure may be increased by her company also.

P. S. Your grey pacer remains unsold yet. Remember me to the Col^o & the Delegate & tell the last, I wish he would vent some of his political humour upon me. (To John Hopkins, Richmond.)

Pamocra Jan^y 20th 1788.

Had I collected anything, My D^r Sir, proper to communicate, concerning your Charles City matters intrusted to me, I should have done it by the bearer of your letter of 10th. To account for my not having done anything in them, I must inform you, that I took a violent cold whilst in Richmond, the ill effects of which distressed me for sometime, & prevented my attendance at Cha^s City court. However, next court will be time enough, if compulsory measures should be necessary in any case. I have been endeavoring to sell the Gray to Cro Graves;⁴ (the only man who wants about here), but he thinks £20 in such good hands as M^r Russell's too much for him. Say, if you'll take less, & how much? I shall not be at Richmond till towards April, without some extraordinary inducement, or necessity. If you

³ Buckner Stith.

⁴ Croshaw Graves. See *Graves Family, Quarterly* II., 270, 271.

will come down shortly, we will go to Eltham & have some good eating, & diversion.

N. B. Did you have your Tea party, & court Miss G—b—la? (To John Hopkins, Richmond.)

Pamocra, June 4, 1788.

It now seems that I shall not see Mr J. Hopkins, unless I go to Richmond for the purpose. Altho' I heard, early on my way, that there was no court in Chas. City last month, yet I attended there the second day expecting I might see you. But in vain. Last Friday night I was informed you were at *Chemokins*,⁵ but it was when I could not ride there, and that you intended up next morning. Mr Foster had once resolved & fixed a plan to come there, but before our moving machinery was ready it was too late: not for me, but for a young Lady who was under my care for that day. He left us & went—part of our plan was, that when we were arrived at Chemokins, I should take Miss L. L. from the company and court her a little, by way of distress to you: and then Mr F. was to do the same. This was proposed by Mr F. and I believe rather intended for his own delight than for your distress. I suppose, with both of you, courting each a little at a time, the poor Lady got wearied with it. I shall be glad to hear a confirmation of the report circulating now, that you are to be married shortly to the girl you love. I shall be at Richmond the 20th inst. I would come now, but I expect it would require exertions beyond my powers to get within hearing of the Debates in convention. Do let me know, as soon as Mess^{rs} *Henry and Tyler*⁶ have fixed the question in the negative. (To John Hopkins, Richmond.)

Pamocra, Feb^{ry} 20, 89.

When I left you last, I purposed to have returned by Richmond, but the company I joined at Hanover Town led me down

⁵ A place in New Kent, formerly patented by Major William Lewis, and in 1760 was owned by Charles Lewis, of Albemarle county, who in that year had the entail docketed, and doubtless sold it soon after.

⁶ Patrick Henry and John Tyler, who were leading opponents in the Virginia Convention of the adoption of the Federal Constitution.

to Newcastle, after spending two Days in frolicking at Studley, & detained me till tuesday: It was then necessary to speed home to prepare for Ch^{as} C^y Court; tho' the weather was so bad I could not attend. You really ought to have been with us. Jack Lyons⁷ had his Dulcinea to attend to *Miss Carter*—the Doc^{tr}⁸ his also, *Miss Toller*, & B. Stith his, *Miss Aylett*. All lamentably in love—and I courted both L—y & K—ty for you. We fairly cleared the old Don out, & possessed ourselves of the House. I suppose there has not been so much noise & courtship there, this age past. The lawyer has at last overcome Miss C—tr by his constancy & assiduity, & will marry her, I believe. I left the Doc^{tr} at Newcastle with Miss Toller, determined to have his fate fixed within twenty four hours—and I expect it was in the negative from what I saw. But all this & more I suppose you have heard from B. S. (alias Nicholson's paper) before this. I will speak only of my own accts. I delivered your Letter & danced with the Lady, but L. L. is much the finest girl. In fact I do not know a finer women, anywhere. From what I could find out in the course of our conversation, which I often turned on yourself, I think it your fault that she is not your's. And I am astonished how you can lie still & alone these cold nights, whilst that is probably the case. You ought to go there again, at any rate, before you set out to New York. Miss Overton was crowded with admirers so incessantly, that I scarce had an opportunity to get acquainted with her, tho' that was my business. She is in fact a Lillyputian in stature, but handsome & well made. In somuch that I have determined to be in love with her, & to make a visit in form as soon as the March courts are over; unless she should be engaged before that time. This is something

⁷ John Lyons was the eldest son of Judge Peter Lyons. He married Miss Ann Carter, of *Cleves*, in King George county. She married after his death Rev. Abner Waugh.

⁸ "The Doctor" was James Lyons, second son of Judge Peter Lyons, He was educated in medicine at Philadelphia and Edinburgh. He married Sarah Spotswood Waugh. His eldest son was Hon. James Lyons, of Richmond, who was member of the Confederate Congress, and died not long since.

like your way of courtship, but I am forced to practice this Platonian method just now, from being engaged in some affairs, of a critical nature, & of the utmost importance to my interest. If you are informed of the Doc^{tr}s Fate, do communicate it by the bearer. I wish him the best Fortune when not my rival. I must see you some where or other before you leave the State.

Sunday morning. I talked to you last night until bed-time. & I now bid you good-morning, in order to tell you I shall practice as an attorney in the District of W^{ms}Burg, King & Queen, Richmond. If an opportunity offers of recommending me to business at any time, (you) will be so good as to remember me.

My compl^{ts} to Mr Kemp, & I hope he enjoyed himself at the Birth night. Let me know how you & Miss *To be sure* passed your time there.

Pamocra, Aug^t 18-91.

I received yours of the 12th respecting the executions against your Father's Estate. Your uncle has delivered a rep. Bond for about £20. which will settle one of the executions. The other I will hold up until I see you if I cannot pay it by some means or other. I shall be in Richmond about ten or twelve days hence, certainly, if not sooner. (To John Hopkins, Esq., Richmond.)

Pamocra, Sep^{thr} 23^d 91.

I really began to think that your Evil genius had informed the Soras that they were to be carried to Richmond, & that in consequence of such information they had kept themselves secreted. However, I have at last caught you a few, which the bearer hereof will deliver. I have never been able to purchase any papers, since I saw you. I expected about this time, the pleasure of M^{rs} Hopkins' company to eat Soras with me here; & as I have expected in vain, I shall charge the disappointment to your A/c with me. If you have any command towards W^{ms}Burg, I shall be there in a few days & be happy to receive them. (To John Hopkins, Esq., Richmond.)

Philadelphia, Dec^{br} 27-91.

After a cold ride from the Head of Elk, I arrived here about 6 o'clock on Saturday night last. My evening's ride was made colder in order to gratify my curiosity to see the country from Wilmington hither, (which is really charming) as, to effect the gratification I was obliged to hoist the curtain of the coach. Since my arrival here I have lost no time in looking round me, & doing what little business I have in hand for you &c. I have got an acceptance of R. Smith's Bill on M^r Evans. I have lodged the transfer certificate of Hammond's in the Secretaries office in order to get the warrant, which I shall have, I am told, the 1st day of next month, & which I will forward immediately to M^r Hammond. I have seen Hartshorn, who says he has received your Letter & will pay the 200 £ for Arthur Lee, agreeable to your request. Stock of all kind, here, is high & rising. Scrip has got to 150\$ p^r share—6 p^r c^{ts} to 22/10 last night cash & deferred in proportion. Highbee thinks it will rise still higher (that is stock). He means to buy scrip himself, & thinks two days will be sufficient to deliberate whether it will fall or not. He has promised to advise me. The New York Speculators are expected in to-night, such as Duer &c., who may make some alteration in the Paper Market here. I expect to receive power from Chas. Lee by this post for transferring &c his stocks for your use. I also expect a Letter of advice from you, agreeable to which I shall act. I informed you from George town that Chas. Lee would not part with his Scrip, so that you will have to purchase what you want here. I find the people here very civil. I have seen all my Virginia acquaintances, who recognize me with apparent pleasure. Tell Peter Lyons I have presented his Letter to M^r Miller yesterday, & that I dined with him to'day. I like M^r Miller very much & thank M^r Lyons for his introduction. I dine with M^r Miller and his friends on Saturday next. It was sometime before I found the right room & man to receive M^r Hammond's certificate; but every body gave me the information I asked civilly. I have traversed the whole city. It answers my expectations in some respects, & in others it falls short. Man-

kind are all brethren & will be alike each other, except as local & other circumstances vary the scenes of interest & pleasure. The women here are shewy & look very handsome at a distance; but in general I don't think they are so delicate in substance or bear examination so well as the females of Virginia. However, I can't judge positively yet, tho' I am determined to know as much of them as possible, (with safety) before I quit. Tell M^r Hopkins, M^r Miller & myself will contrive to get her a good muff & tipet soon. If you see Benj. Harrison, you may let him know, his Bill in my favor on Morris is accepted. I have attempted to wait on M^r Vaughn twice, without seeing him. To-day I left your letter & will call at his office again tomorrow. If M^r Duer comes here I will fix a day for settling with him in New York. Perhaps I shall also see M^r Hammond here, this week, with whom I will converse & inform you of our conversatton, (if he does come). It is not necessary for me to tell you that anything I can do for you here or elsewhere will always give me the greatest & most pleasing gratification. I lodge at M^{rs} Sonntag's, No. 235 Market Strt, nearly opposite the president's. Thither, you must know I have a general invitation from the president himself to spend all my time, when not otherwise engaged. I also perceive from the behaviour of sundry Persons that they consider me as connected with that Family. I shall continue to write to you of every thing that happens to me.

Since writing the above I have rec^d y^{rs} of the 20th. I shall accordingly comply with the contents. I expect to see M^r Hammond here, if not I will see him at New York time enough. If I see M^r Duer, I shall say nothing to him, as you desire. (To John Hopkins, Richmond.)

Philadelphia Jan^{ry} 1st 1792.

I have received your Letters of the 23^d & 25th Ultimo. I have never yet thought proper to purchase scrip for you; because when I arrived here it had risen far above your expectations, & has now reached 178\$. This extraordinary price, at this unexpected time, is considered by many as the effect of a combination of Speculators, who are interested to sell. It is agreed on all hands

it cannot continue to rise, but may very probably lower; so that I shall wait until I hear farther from you, unless it should suddenly come down near your calculation in your last letter by to-morrow. M^r Hammond is here. He will go on to New York about Tuesday; & I shall either go with him or follow the last of the week. We will settle with M^r Thomson in time. Your last Bill on Tybout I will present to'morrow. The first, inclosed to me, I got accepted, as I wrote by last post. Whatever money comes to hand shall be disposed of or remitted agreeable to your directions. I shall wait here until Thursday, for the days of Grace to expire, if M^r Evers & Tybout do not offer the Money before, in order secure the Money before I go to New York. To'morrow morning will, I suppose, determine whether scrips are raised by artifice or not. I have seen every thing now, almost, of the curious-kind here. Last night I met with Miss Oswald at a concert. Vaughan says she is a clever girl even here. He and M^r Miller are *monstrously civil indeed*. I am almost persuaded they are candid in it too. Of all the foolish monkey-shows I ever was at, a Levee is the most so. I will go to no more. I can't write you about these things, but we shall talk a great deal when I return. Tell M^{rs} H. I have bought her a butter-print & shall send it on before me, if I can get any body to take charge of it. (To John Hopkins, Esq., Richmond.)

Philadelphia Jan^{ry} 15. 92.

Since I wrote to you last I have been to New York and have returned to this place. I should have informed you of the completion of your contract with Thompson, by last Wednesday's post for York, but that I could not see M^r Hammond in time to write after he had settled with Thompson. Indeed he did not get the receipts until the next day. After that, as I came on in the next Stage, I postponed putting a letter in the office until this day, as it would not be the sooner forwarded to your hand. I delivered to M^r Hammond Duer's Notes, & at his request I delivered to him also 1970\$ of Smyth's draft on McKevers. For these I have his receipts & also a receipt for £4,000 paid by him to

Thompson for you on account of Fenwick. He has forwarded one of Thomson's receipts to you, one he keeps & the other I shall bring with me. I observed to him that Duer's notes & the 1970\$ exceeded the payment to Thomson, expecting he would return the balance to me, but he said he would account with you for it, otherwise. He is your Friend, (& as he raised the money to pay Thomson for you) I said no more, but took his receipt, which you will think right I expect. I am told the Bank receives Duer's notes with reluctance, as he only pays barely to save his credit. I am sorry I could not speculate for you in Scrip. Had you been here you would have done something advantageous, I think. However I could make no certain bargain on your funds before the 1st of Jan^y & the Scrips were far above your expectations. I shall now, after paying Constable 300\$ & discounting the last of Tybout's Bills, fix the balance of both in Drafts & Notes to remit to you. I shall also bring on you order on Comptroller &c. if it comes before I leave this, or leave directions to have it done for us, after my departure, in case it should then arrive. I shall endeavor to set out for home on Friday the 20th inst. I was at New York only three days. M^{rs} Harmer is very well, & treated me very friendly. She & M^{rs} Elsworth desire their love to you & yours. I assure you I was sorry to part with them & the place so soon. It is a delightful place now. And what must it be in summer? I like M^r Hammond too. I must really go thither sometime or other in a better season. Tell Peter Lyons I received his letter & shall get the shoes, of Boutwell here. That I will also present his respects to Miss Alexander &c. and further that Bills cannot be had under 2 1/2 p^r C^t above par. I have purchased things agreeable to my mem^{os} but I know not how I shall get them to Virginia until the River opens. I will try however to take M^{rs} Hopkins Muff with me. I have written to you by every post but once since my arrival here, & I can't think what has become of my Letters. I will tell you more about it, when I come home.

I forgot to tell you that I have lodged the certificate of Williams in the Treasury Office & that I shall make the Transfer to

Hammond & forward them, as soon as possible which will be on tuesday, as the Officers tell me. Tell Kemp that bread & cakes are uncommonly cheap in New York. (To John Hopkins, Richmond.)

Pomocra March 2^d, 92.

I send you herewith a rock-fish fit to be presented to the Governor. Indeed, if I was better acquainted with him, & it did not look like begging a dinner, I believe I should have presented it to his excellency. However I dare say you will use it with great propriety & pay due respect to its worth, tho' it comes from Chickahominy. I intend to come up with Col^o Bassett on Sunday or Monday. My respects to M^{rs} and Miss Lucy. (To John Hopkins, Richmond.)

Pamocra March 2^d, 92.

I am sorry that our plans are generally so unsuccessful, as that we can never effect our intended Tours together. If you do not go to Alexandria till late in March I can accompany you, otherwise we go not together. For if I set off only the 5th I cannot return to our Quar^{terly} Court. You forgot to give me a state of your claim against A: Russell,⁹ & any papers of evidence relative to it, that you may have. You will send them by the bearer if you please. I have passed most of my time since I left Richmond at Eltham. It is rather a melancholy place at present, altho' the wine flows plentifully still. Our friend Judge Lyons was there several days, & as he has sometime since determined never more to agree in opinion with man, woman or child in conversation, we quarrelled the whole time I staid with him. I shall be in Richmond next month on my way to Cumberland Court. (To John Hopkins, Esq., Richmond.)

Sweet Springs June 21st 1794.

A postscript from hence to Richmond just gives me five minutes to speak to you. In that time, I tell you I arrived here safely on Monday last, after resting one day at Staunton & one day at

⁹ Armistead Russell, of New Kent.

the Warm Springs. The day I left you, I rode 45 miles to Mr Paynes, which was too great a distance & made me unwell. My anxiety however hurried me on the next day to Charlottesville, tho' I could (eat) no dinner. At the River below the Town I became very sick & puked a good deal, which was also the case after I entered the town. The puking relieved me, but left me weak, tho' not enough so as to prevent my starting again in the morning for Staunton where I arrived that afternoon. From my leaving Charlottesville I have mended, & should improve much faster but that I cannot restrain the ungovernable appetite raised & supported by the water here. We have but a small company as yet, tho' more in number than I expected at this early period in the season. The accommodation for board is bad compared with what it has been for some years past; the person who has kept a boarding house here lately having left the place last winter & a new one come unprepared in a great measure. A Mr DeSaussure from Charleston, S. C. & his Lady are here, & both agreeable people. We have plenty of venison; but no currant or other jelly or wine &c. to dress it, or even a convenience for broiling a good steak. Yet we eat it voraciously, fried & roasted in a cruel manner indeed. I suppose Capt. Singleton¹⁰ will be here shortly now, if he left Richmond at the proper time. Mr Peyton Short.¹¹ of Kentucky, is I am told gone down the country, from the West. Pray inquire if he comes to Richmond, & if Julius B. Dandridge¹² is not in the way, do you or Mr Lyons desire him to leave with you what money he may have for me. I would write to others of my Friends now but that the bearer hurries me. Let them know I hope to get well here, & remember them.

Pray send me some newspapers by the bearer. (John Hopkins, Esq., Richmond.)

August 6th, 1794. Richmond.

After the reception of your Letter to me at the Sweet Springs

¹⁰ Captain Anthony Singleton, who married Lucy Harrison.

¹¹ Peyton Short was brother of Hon. William Short, Minister to Holland, etc.

¹² Brother of the writer of the letter; cashier U. S. Bank of Richmond.

by Mr. Cane, I (had) no opportunity of writing again. I have now the pleasure to tell you that I arrived here safe, about 12 o'clock to-day, after the hottest journey that ever man made in a temperate zone. From the Springs to this place, not one favoring cloud interposed itself to shade my head from the scorching Sun—til this morning. I had recovered my usual weight (135^{lbs}) when I set off, but my tallow which I had collected in grazing on the Mountains is almost melted. However I feel well & trust my upland-trip will save me from any bilious attack this fall. I left Capⁿ Singleton much mended & recruiting still. He is much elated with the symptoms of returning health & I think a few annual visits to the S. Springs, & care in the winter may intirely restore him. I need not tell you that your Family here are well as Mr^s Hopkins is writing to you herself. I shall stay here two days to rest & then proceed home. If you meet with any of my friends where you are remember me to them. (To John Hopkins, Esq., Philadelphia, care of J^{no} Vaughan, Esq.)

Pamocra, Octobr^r 24, 94.

It has been so long since I saw you or had the pleasure of hearing directly from you, that I had determined to come up to-morrow & renew our usual communications in person, before I received your Letter of the 17th inst^t. But my bowels which have been very much relaxed for sometime past, are now in such a state by a bad cold that it really would subject me to the danger of a violent disorder, if I should leave home. Indeed, I am at this time so weak that I could not immediately support the fatigue of a journey. I have long since, without effect, made the inquiry you wished respecting the Forge—property—Yesterday. I wrote to him (Douglass¹³) respecting that inquiry, & also about the Loans & certificate you mention, offering him by way of overture 15s. for 20s. His answer I inclose you. If you have money to invest in Land &c. I have my doubts whether you can do it to so great advantage in the lower as in the upper country. The

¹³ William Douglass, grandfather of the late Hon. Beverley Douglass, owned Providence Forge, in New Kent.

Forge property I consider as very valuable whilst it shall remain together under the particular direction of Douglass. But if it should be divided or his superintendence should cease, its value would be much depreciated. The land itself is not particularly valuable; indeed, a great quantity of it is poor. However, I hope before you part with your cash, you will consider well what you are to get for it. Your Judg^t against Russell has been long since executed & replevied. I know of no other judgments here or in Charles City from which you are like to receive any benefit shortly. You must know of Ja^s Hays, whether he will pay Swain's debt, because it never has been satisfied, & he is answerable for it. John Tyler tells me you have agreed to receive as a gift from him a sum for the amount of which he is to put a bond for your use into my hands. Altho' Matrimony has always, for 8 or 9 years past, been more or less a matter of concern to me in prospect, & has for some little time past appeared in a nearer view than usual; yet it has never abstracted me from my duties of business or Friendship. And let me assure you that altho' my awkwardness may sometimes shew like indifference, yet so established am I in my attachment to some few friends, & so much delighted in their association, that should Matrimony arrayed in its most infatuating charms, court me, & discover the least threat to deprive me of the enjoyment of my Friends, I believe she would risque very much the success of her addresses. However, I hope I shall never experience a tryal of the sort; and if at any time I shall succeed in seeking matrimony I trust I shall add a new and lasting link to my connection in Friendship.

Brandon Oct^r 14th 96.

After a month's agitation, we arrived here, as at home, a few days past, but are far from being settled yet. I have rented three rooms of M^r Ben Cocke a Bachelor who lives adjoining my land, & shall continue in his house till the Spring. As soon as I get all my matters from New Kent brought over, & my contrivances a little arranged I shall come up to Richmond. Becca¹⁴ joins me in affectionate remembrance to Mrs. Hopkins.

¹⁴ Rebecca Minge, his wife.

N. B. If Reuben Burnley sends a mare to you for me, take care of her & inform me if you please. When you write, direct your Letters (by post) to be left at Cabbin-point, which is about 6 miles from me. (To John Hopkins, Esq., Richmond.)

Brandon, Nov^r 27th, 97.

Your information respecting Short's non-payment of my draft in full is extraordinary to me as I had long ago directed M^r Short to pay only to you or myself. He, therefore, cannot be justified & must answer for it. I am sorry to hear that honesty in man is so scarce as to be a phenomenon with you,—and more so that the depravity of modern-times should be so much to be complained of. I had hoped (for I hear no news here) that all in general was going well. John Adams having succeeded Ge^o Washington in place & politics, the Funding System having succeeded, & the Bank in full force & *virtue*, & the antis in Congress overruled, how, may I ask, can things go ill? Altho' there be a few who wish well to French-Fraternity here, yet a great majority have decided in favor of Britain. British men do all our trade, & the British Navy is predominant. A few odd-men in the country happening to wish to see its constitutional principles enforced in spirit & letter, by making laws for all citizens to understand & obey, instead of supposing in every law that the people are too simple to be trusted with a fair knowledge of what they are to do & must therefore be indirectly cheated or forced into obedience; the thoughts of these few old fellows cannot effect any mischief, when the government is *fixed* in a certain System. Still altho' I have not well understood it, the French may be wrong & Britain right; & people here may be worse, because of the French. Yet I must think that Speculations bred under the Funding & Banking Systems have had some share in corrupting our modern-Times. The man who sets no bounds to the quantity of wealth he aims at, will be very apt to overlook propriety in the means. A few individuals suddenly accumulating great wealth by speculation, will be apt to throw a damp on their neighbors, who in the common way of industrious honest

labor must work a life to make a moderate fortune. Many will be tempted to quit labor, & if they do not succeed in their new mode of life they are ruined. These things have happened in our country, & may have added to the depravity of our times. In order to avoid temptation I mean hereafter to stay at home & work. Not with the hope or desire of becoming rich, but to be barely independent enough to do & say what I conscientiously think right & honest. I do not mean to assert that I am just & honest, but that at present I wish to be able to be so—neither do I mean to say that I will not come to see you, because if my Family was not too heavy to travel I would come with them this out of the way, & therefore keep warm outside at least, by good fires.

I have now written as much as you have time to read. Remember us to Mrs. Hopkins and our children to yours.

P. S. What I meant by requesting you to have Dinguid sued, was that I might not by giving him time lose my right to recover of the assignees, in case Dinguid should prove unable to pay finally. (To John Hopkins, Esq., Richmond, from Cabbins Point.)

Brandon April 28, 97.

Your absence at the time Mr Walker's vessel went to Richmond leaves no means of getting the Sugar down but by a cart which I now send for it & 100^{lb} or half bar^l of brown sugar will load the horse with the 75^{pd} of loaf sugar. I thank you for your assistance in remitting for me to Gill & otherwise. Your letter of the 7th has come to hand since the 15th so that it was too late to effect my being at Richmond then. If I can't come to Richmond before Mr^s H. &c., will meet you at Berkeley and we can then arrange something decisive about Mr Armistead's claim & yours agst Tyler. We will certainly meet you there. I meddle but little with politics now. I abominate all European systems of government (except some few of little importance in the world), & never liked the French much but that they opposed the English, for whom I have an insuperable aversion. I never wish to be the ally of any great nation English or French, &

National friendship I consider (as) existing only words; but if my private friendship can ever save you from harm or afford you good, you may rely upon its exertion in your favor, with more certainty than any national one altho' cultivated & established with the talents & address of a Jay or any other Ambassadors or Envoys extraordinary. I am sorry your cropping goes on badly. My account of my wheat I assure was not exaggerated. I want to transmit 10 dollars to my brother William & cant get a bank note in our town of Cabin point or in the neighborhood. I must therefore trouble you further to transmit him that much for me with the latter inclosed, by the next post.

N. B. Becca sends a glass bottle with a West India Cherry or a nut in it, as a present to M^{rs} H. which you will receive in her absence & keep for her. I send you a piece of Sturgeon, but suppose it is no rarity with you. (To John Hopkins, Esq., Richmond. By Booker.)

Brandon March, 4th 98.

Some few days, since I received a letter of yours dated as far back as Sep^r 10, 97, respecting Julius & Billey's situation & offering to imploy either & for all which I am additionally indebted to your good attention to me & mine. M^r Heth is here to'day on the subject of a purchase made two years since with which you are acquainted. I suppose I must be a loser with him in the business. I have therefore directed him to give you Morris' note for 4000 dollars which you must send forward & sue for me or do anything else with that you may think will occasion me the least loss. I will also thank you to let me know whether you think that Morris will never pay at all, in order that I may prepare for the worst. M^r Heth may receive the benefit of Dinguids bond (if) any has arisen from it & he will apply to you on the subject. I intend to Richmond the last of this month or the first week in the next, & shall be glad to find you at home. My family have increased one more &, free from the corruptions of Luxury & other excuses, keep always in good health.

Note. If M^r J. Edloe comes up to Richmond in a carriage next week with Mrs. Carter Harrison, can't you send me the

Geographical books &c. by him? If you can, see him. (To John Hopkins, Richmond.)

Brandon Sep^r 3^d 98.

My wife and children have been sick for six weeks with the ague & fever & chicken-pox. They are still sick. The fatigue of attending the courts all last month, or riding in the night last week from Surry C'thouse to see an acquaintance in the neighborhood gave me a fever which has lasted from Friday till this time without much intermission. I did exert myself to ride home on Saturday, but I am sure I could not now hold out to ride to Richmond. I am sorry that I cannot in consequence be with you to morrow to have my deposition taken. If my fever goes off & my strength returns I will come during the sitting of the D^t C^t. & I suppose M^r Tyler will not stand on the point of lawful notice. (To John Hopkins, Esq., Richmond.)

AN OLD LETTER.*

LEWIS BURWELL (his Letter to) M^r BROADHURST.
ffor his respected ffreind M^r Walter Brodhurst at his home upon
Nominye, Potomacke River, present.
M^r Brodhurst

And my most honrd freind yo^{rs} rec^d wherein I understand yo^r great care alwayes of yo^r absent friend w^{ch} I hope I shall not dye unrequited if I survive this my long sickness w^{ch} hath beane of a yeares continuance what you have or shall receive I shall desire yo^u to convey to me as soon as possible, but if yo^u vallew your freind buy yo^r young son a cow with part of it or else you

* This was copied from a record book in Northumberland county. Lewis Burwell died November 6, 1653, not long after this letter was written and in the thirty-third year of his age. He was founder of a distinguished Virginia family, which has been represented in many offices to the present day. He married Lucy Higginson, daughter of Captain Robert Higginson. Walter Brodhurst, to whom this letter was written, was son of William Brodhurst, of Lilleshall, Shropshire, gentleman. He died in Northumberland county, Virginia, in 1657, leaving in Virginia sons